

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/615,597
Attorney Docket Q76478
August 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 24-43 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the last Office Action the drawings were objected to grounds that the drawings failed to show all of the features specifically set forth in the claims as originally filed. Substitute sheets of drawings containing Figures 1-9 inclusive are submitted herewith wherein the weakened regions of the first and second layers have been shown schematically. More specifically, the weakened region of the first layer and the weakened region of the second layer have been shown schematically according to four different embodiments which are shown in new Figures 6-9 inclusive. These features are fully supported by the disclosure as originally filed. In the second paragraph on page 9 of the application it is stated that the first layer is also weakened specifically along the required tear line, e.g. by scoring. Since scoring can be an indentation the scoring has been shown in the substitute drawings as an indentation. The alternative embodiments of the weakened region of the first layer and the weakened region of the second layer are supported by Claims 15 and 16 as originally filed as well as the second paragraph on page 9 of the specification.

In the last Office Action the use of the term “wave-like” was objected to since the claims included elements not actually disclosed “those encompassed by like”. The specification has been amended to change the term “wave-like” to --sinuous-- through the entire specification. According to the dictionary, the term sinuous means of a serpentine or wavy form. Thus, the terms --sinuous-- and “wave-like” have the same meaning and no new matter is introduced into the application.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Four total sheets of drawings, including two additional sheets containing Figures 6-9 inclusive, are submitted herewith in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d).

Attachment: 4 sheets (2 replacement and 2 additional)

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New three figure descriptions for new Figures 9-6 inclusive have been inserted into the specification on page 6 and a detailed description of Figures 6-9 has been added to the specification on page 9. Support for new Figures 6-9 inclusive is found in the specification as originally filed and can be found in the fifth and sixth paragraphs of page 4 and the first full paragraph on page 9 of the specification as originally filed.

A number of claims were objected to because of informalities and Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. All of the claims were rejected on the basis of prior art. All of the foregoing objections and rejections are considered moot in view of the cancellation of original Claims 1-23 inclusive and the substitution of new Claims 24-43.

New independent claims 245, 29, 34 and 39 are specific to the four embodiments as shown in Figures 6-9 respectively.

The patent to Ueno *et al.* (6,440,514) is directed to an instrument panel cover for an airbag assembly. As shown in Figure 3, the first and second layers are provided with perforations 24 which extend entirely through the thickness of the first and second layers and accordingly are visible in the outer surface of the instrument panel cover. Although the inner surface of the second panel is provided with scoring there is no teaching or suggestion whatsoever of providing scoring on the inner surface of the first layer. Additionally, the plurality of holes of Ueno *et al.* in the first layer are uniformly distributed over an area rather than a zigzag or straight linear pattern.

In the patent to Lutz (6,224,090) there is only one weakened area disclosed namely the zigzag weakening 1.

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The patent to Brodi (6,247,722) discloses a cover having first and second layers.

However, Brodi fails to disclose a first weakened region extending linearly in one of the layers and a second weakened region extending in a zigzag manner in another layer. None of the other references relied upon in the last Office action are considered to be the least bit pertinent to the arrangement of the weakened region in the first and second layers respectively as specifically called for in new Claims 24 and 34.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments it is submitted that new Claims 24, 29, 34 and 34 as well as the claims dependent therefrom are clearly allowable over the references of record and it is respectfully requested that these claims be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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